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THE REPORTS FROM TUNISIA generally very bad. Bad roads, bad health, bad weather and bad management seem to show the whole to be a bad business.

We observe a delicate tone of refined politeness pervading the American press. For instance, the Cincinnati *Enquirer* remarks that "President Arthur is now in the act of preparing his first annual message to Congress. President Arthur can have his message published in advance of its delivery by forwarding it to the *Enquirer* office. We strive to please."

Not to be outdone by a contemporary, we offer the columns of *The Critic* to the President. Home institutions should be patronized.

The Indian is not the only resident of this country who will not learn the English language. Occasional one may find European who have learned it, but they have accumulated wealth among us, but have not learned and will not learn to speak, read, or write in any other than their native tongue. It would not be difficult to find many Americans who have adopted citizens who have enjoyed lucrative positions in the public service.—*National Republican*.

What's the use of expecting foreigners to get hold of the language when the most glaring attacks on English grammar are made by Congressmen?

In the death of H. V. Redfield journalism loses one of its most conspicuous figures and society one of its most amiable members. Mr. Redfield was a modest, painstaking researcher and student. He cared nothing for ornamentation of style or the *cet* of sensationalism, but was content with the slower, surer growth of solid reputation based upon honest hard work and conscientious accuracy. He was therefore a journalist pure and simple, of the highest and most perfect type. Years ago, when Southern correspondent of the Cincinnati *Commercial*, his letters were held to be the standard of fact concerning affairs in the region covered by his observation, and as such were frequently cited as authority beyond cavil in the debates of Congress. This was the ultimate of praise capable of bestowal upon the work of a journalist.

In the relations of society, Mr. Redfield was steadfast, obliging unobtrusive and well-bred. The tendency of work on a morning newspaper to demoralize the domestic natures of men seemed to take no hold upon Redfield. When he was not at work he was at home, and his goings and comings had the stated regularity of clock-work. Withal he had no vices, and his private habits were as irreproachable as his public career was admirable. The loss of him is irreparable.

The indications are that the contest for the Speakership will be waged entirely on sectional lines and that the principle of territorial distribution as to party plums will govern the policy of the Republican majority. Six weeks ago Frank Hiscock was largely in the lead. He counted more votes than any other two candidates, and, representing as he did, the cardinal Republican doctrine of protection to American industry, the track seemed clear before him.

Whether the principle of territorial distribution of offices is sound ethics of party management or not is a disputed question. So far as it has been tested in actual management it has generally resulted to the advantage of mediocrity. However, in the days of parties without principles, perhaps it is consistent to select men representatives of localities, since there is nothing else to represent.

The immediate application of the distributive rule to the Speakership would cause the selection of a Western man. Mr. Hiscock, if beaten, as now seems probable, will owe his defeat to the fact that New York has the President and two members of the Cabinet already; with New England to be shortly seated in the Cabinet in the person of Boutwell, Rice or some other Massachusetts Stalwart, and New Jersey in the person of Frelinghuysen.

Thus, so far as this class of considerations can weigh in the result, the West has largely the advantage in the race for Speaker. But, by way of offsetting their individual advantages of position, the Western men are as yet frittering away their numerical strength among some half a dozen alleged candidates, of whom but one is of stature approaching the dimensions that ought to be required in a Speaker of the House. This one is Kasson. As for the others, they have cut so small a figure in public activity heretofore that one needs a directory to keep track of their names.

If the Western delegations would unite on Mr. Kasson there is little doubt that he would be nominated, perhaps on the first formal ballot.

But we understand that certain other Western candidates, notably, Keifer, of Ohio, and Burrows, of Michigan, are quietly assailing Mr. Kasson on his tariff proclivities and with some effect. It is pretty certain that no man can be nominated for Speaker of the House who will not subscribe to the doctrine of protection to American industry in its broadest acceptance.

We presume, however, that when Mr. Kasson deems that the time has come for him to define his position on this question, he will dispel the bulk of the unfavorable impression his adversaries have produced. His actual views in those directions have been known to us a long time, and we do not hesitate to say that he is to all intents and purposes sufficiently Protectionist to faithfully shape in the preliminaries of legislation any tariff policy to the support of which the Republican party in the House could be brought solidly.

The canvass on the ground will begin actively next week, and promises to be exciting. There are so many minor complications at the outset that intelligent prediction is out of the question. But the present indications, so far as any exist, point to the nomination of either Kasson or some second-rate Western man not yet mentioned.

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